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09/657,460	09/07/2000	Toshimitsu Suzuki	21.1983	1685

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EXAMINER	
VU, THANH T	
ART UNIT	**PAPER NUMBER**
2174	

DATE MAILED: 04/21/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/657,460	SUZUKI ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Thanh T. Vu	2174	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *14 October 2004*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-43* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-43* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

This communication is responsive to Amendment, filed 10/14/2004.

Claims 1-43 are pending in this application. In the Amendment 1, 14, 20, 37, 38 and 43 were amended. This action is made Final.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-4, 8-15, 17-23, 27-33, 35-39, 41 and 43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kanevsky (U.S. Pat. No. 6,300,947) and Nehab et al ("Nehab", U.S. Pat. No. 6,029,182).

Per claim 1, Kanevsky teaches a method of distributing information from at least one information distribution server to a plurality of terminals via a network, comprising:

receiving an information request generated by user selection of a link in an online hypertext document at a requesting terminal (fig. 1; client machine 100 and server 104; request message 102; col. 6, lines 7-25); and

determining whether conversion of requested information is necessary based on whether the requested information has a data format that can be utilized by the requesting terminal according to environment information for the requesting terminal (col. 8, lines 2-7, lines 24-34, 38-44, and lines 49-53; col. 17, lines 30-45); and

converting at least a relevant part of the requested information into response information in a data format that can be utilized by the requesting terminal based on the environment information for the requesting terminal , when it is determined that the conversion of the requested information is necessary (figs 10 and 12; col. 3, lines 53-67; col. 7, lines 25-29; col. 9, lines 35-45).

Kanevsky does not specifically teach converting at least a relevant part of requested information into response information in a type and format that can be utilized by the requesting terminal based on environment information for the requesting terminal. However, Nehab teaches converting at least a relevant part of requested information into response information in a type and format that can be utilized by the requesting terminal based on environment information for the requesting terminal (col. 13, lines 20-30; col. 24, lines 45-59). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include the formatting of requested information as taught by Nehab in the invention of Kanevsky because it gives the users the flexibilities when retrieving data from WWW sites by formatting the data into a personalized document based on users' predefined layout.

Per claim 2, Kanevsky teaches a method as recited in claim 1, wherein the environment information is obtained from an information request from the requesting terminal for the requested information (fig 1; col. 6, lines 20-28).

Per claim 3, Kanevsky teaches a method as recited in claim 2, wherein the environment information includes identification of an application executing on the requesting terminal that issued the information request (col. 6, lines 20-27).

Per claim 4, Kanevsky teaches a method as recited in claim 3, further comprising determining whether to perform said converting by using the identification of the application to access an application function management table cross referencing a plurality of registered applications and functions provided by the registered applications (fig. 1; col. 6, lines 53-64; col. 8, lines 24-34 and lines 44-49).

Per claim 8, Kanevsky teaches a method as recited in claim 4, further comprising determining how to perform said converting by using the identification of the application to access a processing function management table cross referencing the plurality of registered applications with ways to convert information (col. 6, lines 53-64; col. 8, lines 24-34).

Per claim 9, Kanevsky teaches a method as recited in claim 8, wherein the environment information is supplemented using a user identifier, corresponding to a user of the requesting terminal, to access a user management table cross referencing a plurality of user identifiers with at least one of applications available at user terminals and types of user terminals (col. 6, lines 53-64; col. 8, lines 24-34 and lines 53-57).

Per claim 10, Kanevsky teaches a method as recited in claim 1, wherein said converting includes converting a pointer that cannot be resolved by the requesting terminal, by replacing the pointer with the content pointed to (fig. 3; col. 8, lines 44-62; col. 9, lines 3-6).

Per claim 11, Kanevsky teaches a method as recited in claim 1, wherein said converting includes converting a pointer that cannot be resolved by the requesting terminal into a file name to be displayed (col. 9, lines 7-17).

Per claim 12, Kanevsky teaches a method as recited in claim 1, wherein said converting includes converting a link of a type that the application does not support into at least one link of a type supported by the application (col. 9, lines 35-43; col. 10, lines 5-15).

Per claim 13, Kanevsky teaches a method as recited in claim 12, wherein said converting converts at least one of extended links and both-way links into one-way links (figs. 11 and 13; col. 14, lines 15-20; col. 15, lines 5-11).

Per claim 14, Kanevsky teaches a system for distributing information to a plurality of terminals via a network, comprising:

a network interface unit, coupled to the network, to receive an information request generated by user selection of a link in a online hypertext document at a requesting terminal and to transmit response information to the requesting terminal (fig. 1; client machine 100 and server 104; request message 102; col. 6, lines 7-25); and

an application function management unit determining whether conversion of requested information is necessary based on whether the requested information has a data format that can be utilized by the requesting terminal according to environment information for the requesting terminal (col. 8, lines 2-7, lines 24-34, 38-44, and lines 49-53; col. 17, lines 30-45).

a converting function unit, coupled to said network interface unit, converting at least a relevant part of the requested information into response information in a data format that can be utilized by the requesting terminal based on the environment information for the requesting terminal, when it is determined that the conversion of the requested information is necessary (figs 10 and 12; col. 3, lines 53-67; col. 7, lines 25-29; col. 9, lines 35-45).

Kanevsky does not specifically teach converting at least a relevant part of requested information into response information in a type and format that can be utilized by the requesting terminal based on environment information for the requesting terminal. However, Nehab teaches converting at least a relevant part of requested information into response information in a type and format that can be utilized by the requesting terminal based on environment information for the requesting terminal (col. 13, lines 20-30; col. 24, lines 45-59). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include the formatting of requested information as taught by Nehab in the invention of Kanevsky because it gives the users the flexibilities when retrieving data from WWW sites by formatting the data into a personalized document based on users' predefined layout.

Claim 15 is rejected under the same rationales as claims 3 and 4.

Claim 17 is rejected under the same rationales as claims 3 and 4.

Claim 18 is rejected under the same rationale as claim 4.

Claim 19 is rejected under the same rationales as claims 11 and 13.

Claims 20-23, 27-30, and 31 are rejected under the same rationale as claim 1-4, 8-11, and 13 respectively.

Per claim 32, Kanevsky teaches an information distribution method used by an information distribution service to receive a request for information distribution generated by user selection of a link in an online hypertext document at a terminal connected via a network and to transmit requested information to the terminal, comprising (col. 6, lines 7-25):

verifying functions of an application used by the terminal that sent the request for information distribution upon receipt thereof, determining whether the functions of the application can process requested information (col. 8, lines 24-34 and lines 44-64; col. 16, lines 44-59; col. 17, lines 30-45, and lines 50-59); and

converting, when it is determined that the process is impossible, at least a relevant part of the requested information into a data format which may be processed by the application prior to transmission to the terminal (figs 10 and 12; col. 3, lines 53-67; col. 7, lines 25-29; col. 9, lines 35-45).

Kanevsky does not specifically teach converting at least a relevant part of requested information into response information in a type and format which may be processed by the application prior to transmission to the terminal. However, Nehab teaches converting at least a relevant part of requested information into response information in a type and format which may be processed by the application prior to transmission to the terminal (col. 13, lines 20-30; col. 24, lines 45-59). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include the formatting of requested information as taught by Nehab in the invention of Kanevsky because it gives the users the flexibilities when retrieving data from WWW sites by formatting the data into a personalized document based on users' predefined layout.

Per claim 33, Kanevsky teaches An information distribution apparatus of an information distribution service to receive requests for information distribution generated by user selection of

a link in an online hypertext document at terminals connected thereto via a network and to transmit requested information to the terminals, comprising (col. 6, lines 2-7):

a conversion determination table provided for management of applications which may be operated on the terminal and corresponding functions to be processed by the applications (fig. 1, col. 6, lines 53-64; col. 8, lines 24-34 and lines 44-64; col. 16, lines 44-59; col. 17, lines 30-45, and lines 50-59);

an application identification unit to identify the application used by a requesting terminal when an information request is accepted from the requesting terminal (fig. 1; col. 7, lines 25-28 and lines 50-56; col. 16, lines 44-59; col. 17, lines 30-45, and lines 50-59);

a conversion determination unit, coupled to said conversion determination table and said application identification unit, to determine whether the application can process the requested information by referring to said conversion determination table (figs. 1 and 3, col. 8, lines 24-34 and lines 44-64);

a converting unit, coupled to said conversion determination unit, to convert at least a relevant part of the requested information into converted information having different data format that can be processed by the requesting terminal when it is determined that the application cannot process the requested information (figs. 10 and 12, col. 8, lines 24-34 and lines 44-64; col. 7, lines 25-40; col. 9, lines 35-40); and

a transmission unit, coupled to said converting unit, to transmit the converted information to the requesting terminal (fig 1; col. 7, lines 42-56).

Kanevsky does not specifically teach converting at least a relevant part of requested information into converted information different in at least one of type and format that can be

processed by the requesting terminal. However, Nehab teaches converting at least a relevant part of requested information into converted information different in at least one of type and format that can be processed by the requesting terminal (col. 13, lines 20-30; col. 24, lines 45-59). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include the formatting of requested information as taught by Nehab in the invention of Kanevsky because it gives the users the flexibilities when retrieving data from WWW sites by formatting the data into a personalized document based on users' predefined layout.

Per claim 35, Kanevsky teaches an information distribution apparatus as recited in claim 33, wherein said converting unit converts, when the requested information includes content which cannot be processed by the requesting terminal, only that portion of the content which cannot be processed, depending on a converting system registered in said conversion determination table (col. 7, lines 25-40; col. 9, lines 35-40).

Per claim 36, Kanevsky teaches an information distribution apparatus as recited in claim 35, wherein a remaining portion of the content not processed by said converting unit is a link function or pointer function of XML (col. 7, lines 25-40; col. 9, lines 35-40; col. 10, lines 5-10).

Per claim 37, Kanevsky teaches a terminal apparatus used to receive an information distribution service that responds to an information distribution request from said terminal apparatus connected via a network by transmitting requested information to said terminal apparatus, comprising:

a requesting unit, coupled to the network, to generate the information distribution request in response to user selection of a link in an online hypertext document, including environment

information about at least one of an application used in said terminal apparatus and a function of the application, so that the information distribution service can determining whether conversion of requested information is necessary based on whether the requested information has a data format that can be utilized by the requesting terminal apparatus based on environment information (col. 8, lines 2-7, lines 24-34, 38-44, and lines 49-53; col. 17, lines 30-45) and convert at least a relevant part of the requested information into response information into a data format that can be utilized by said terminal apparatus based the environment information, when it is determined that the conversion of the requested information is necessary (figs. 1, 10 and 12; client unit 100; requesting message 102; col. 6, lines 7-28; col. 8, lines 24-34 and lines 44-64; col. 7, lines 25-40; col. 9, lines 35-40).

Kanevsky does not specifically teach converting at least a relevant part of requested information into response information in a type and format that can be utilized by said terminal apparatus based on environment information. However, Nehab teaches converting at least a relevant part of requested information into response information in a type and format that can be utilized by the requesting terminal based on environment information for the requesting terminal (col. 13, lines 20-30; col. 24, lines 45-59). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include the formatting of requested information as taught by Nehab in the invention of Kanevsky because it gives the users the flexibilities when retrieving data from WWW sites by formatting the data into a personalized document based on users' predefined layout.

Per claim 38, Kanevsky teaches a terminal used to receive an information distribution service that responds to an information distribution request from said terminal connected via a network by transmitting requested information to said terminal, comprising:

a computing unit, coupled to said network, which uses browser software on connection to the information distribution service to transmit, together with the information distribution request, environment information about at least one of application software which may be operated in cooperation with the browser software and application functions, so that the information distribution service can determining whether conversion of requested information is necessary based on whether the requested information has a data format that can be utilized by the requesting terminal apparatus based on the environment information (col. 8, lines 2-7, lines 24-34, 38-44, and lines 49-53; col. 17, lines 30-45) and convert at least a relevant part of the requested information into response information in a data format that can be utilized by said terminal apparatus based the environment information, when it is determined that the conversion of the requested information is necssary (figs. 1, 10 and 12; client unit 100 and web browser 101; col. 6, lines 7-28; col. 8, lines 24-34 and lines 44-64; col. 7, lines 25-40; col. 9, lines 35-40).

Kanevsky does not specifically teach converting at least a relevant part of requested information into response information in a type and format that can be utilized by said terminal based on environment information. However, Nehab teaches converting at least a relevant part of requested information into response information in a type and format that can be utilized by the requesting terminal based on environment information for the requesting terminal (col. 13, lines 20-30; col. 24, lines 45-59). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include the formatting of requested information as taught by

Nehab in the invention of Kanevsky because it gives the users the flexibilities when retrieving data from WWW sites by formatting the data into a personalized document based on users' predefined layout.

Claim 39 is rejected under the same rationale as claim 33.

Claim 41 is rejected under the same rationale as claim 33.

Per claim 43, Kanevsky teaches a method of distributing information from at least one information distribution server to terminals via a network, comprising:

ceceiving an information request including enviroment information for a requesting terminal identifying at least one of a plurality of data formats in which the at least on information distribuition server can output information (fig. 1; client machine 100 and server 104; request message 102; col. 6, lines 7-25; col. 7, lines 25-29); and

determining whether conversion of requested information is necessary based on whether the requested information has a data format that can be utilized by the requesting terminal according to environment information for the requesting terminal (col. 8, lines 2-7, lines 24-34, 38-44, and lines 49-53; col. 17, lines 30-45); and

converting at least part of the information requesting by the information request from a first format in which the information is stored on the at least one information distribution server into a second format that can be utilized by the requesting terminal based on the environment information for the requesting terminal, when it is determined that the conversion of the

requested information is necessary(figs 10 and 12; col. 3, lines 53-67; col. 7, lines 25-29; col. 9, lines 35-45).

Kanevsky does not specifically teach converting at least part of information requesting by the information request from a first type and format in which the information is stored on the at least one information distribution server into a second type and format that can be utilized by the requesting terminal based on the environment information for the requesting terminal. However, Nehab teaches converting at least part of information requesting by the information request from a first type and format in which the information is stored on the at least one information distribution server into a second type and format that can be utilized by the requesting terminal based on the environment information for the requesting terminal (col. 13, lines 20-30; col. 24, lines 45-59). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include the formatting of requested information as taught by Nehab in the invention of Kanevsky because it gives the users the flexibilities when retrieving data from WWW sites by formatting the data into a personalized document based on users' predefined layout.

Claims 5 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kanevsky (U.S. Pat. No. 6,300,947), Nehab et al ("Nehab", U.S. Pat. No. 6,029,182) and Bhide et al. ("Bhide", U.S. Pat. No.5,852,717).

Per claim 5, Kanevsky and Nehab teaches the method as recited in claim 4, but does not teach the identification identifies a browser application by name and version, that issued the information request. However, Bhide teaches the method of identification identifies a browser

application by name and version that issued the information request (col. 12, lines 4-14). Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include the method as taught by Bhide in the invention of Kanevsky and Nehab because it provides a method for increasing the performance of the computer networks utilizing the HTTP request.

Claim 24 is rejected under the same rationale as claim 5.

Claims 6-7, 16, 25-26, 34, 40, and 42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kanevsky (U.S. Pat. No. 6,300,947), Nehab et al ("Nehab", U.S. Pat. No. 6,029,182) and Agraharam et al. ("Agraharam" U.S. Pat. No. 6,035,339).

Per claim 6, Kanevsky and Nehab teaches the method as recited in claim 4, but does not teach said determining is further performed by transmitting an inquiry to the requesting terminal when the application function management table is unable to determine whether a required function included in the requested information can be performed at the requesting terminal. However, Agraharam teaches a method comprising said determining is further performed by transmitting an inquiry to the requesting terminal when the application function management table is unable to determine whether a required function included in the requested information can be performed at the requesting terminal (col. 1, lines 47-55; col. 7, lines 1-12). Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include the method as taught by Agraharam in the invention of Kanevsky and Nehab because it provides a method to more conveniently determine the user terminal capabilities by transmitting

an inquiry to the end-user terminal and to deliver information that the user terminal capabilities may be most effectively used.

Per claim 7, Agraharam teaches a method as recited in claim 6, wherein said transmitting includes transmitting the inquiry with the required function incorporated therein, such that the inquiry can be responded to only if the required function executes properly on the requesting terminal, and wherein said determining is further based on whether a response to the inquiry is received from the requesting terminal (col. 7, lines 1-12).

Claim 16 is rejected under the same rationales as claims 6 and 7.

Claim 25 is rejected under the same rationale as claim 6.

Claim 26 is rejected under the same rationale as claim 7.

Claims 34, 40, and 42 individually are rejected under the same rationale as claim 6.

Response to Arguments

Applicants' arguments in the Amendment have been fully considered but are not persuasive.

Applicant's primary argument is that Kanevsky does not teach "determining whether conversion of requested information is necessary based on whether the requested information has a data format that can be utilized by the requesting terminal according to environment information for the requesting terminal". The examiner does not agree because teaches determining whether conversion of requested information is necessary based on whether the requested information has a data format that can be utilized by the requesting terminal according to environment information for the requesting terminal (col. 8, lines 2-7, lines 24-34, 38-44, and lines 49-53; col. 17, lines 30-45).

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Inquiries

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thanh T. Vu whose telephone number is (571) 272-4073. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thur and every other Fri 8:30 AM - 6:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kristine L. Kincaid can be reached on (571) 272-4063. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

T. Vu

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